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MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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July 15, 1975

DOS REVIEWED 09-Mar-2011: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION.

REFER TO DOS

MEMORANDUM FOR:

BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM:

J. M. Lodol
JAN M. LODAL

SUBJECT:

ERDA Briefing on FY 76 Supplemental
Budget Request

DOE REVIEWED 16-Dec-2010: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION.

Following is a brief discussion of the ERDA supplemental request along with some talking points for your meeting with General Starbird.

Background

Generals Starbird and Graves briefed the OMB and NSC staffs on this request on July 3 and, apparently as a result of concern over the initial OMB reaction, Seamans briefed Lynn yesterday. Lynn reportedly expressed some skepticism, but indicated that no decision had been made. DOD attended these meetings but did not support ERDA very vigorously. However, as indicated in General Wickham's letter to you on this subject (Tab B), DOD strongly supports certain elements of the ERDA request.

The ERDA Request

The ERDA supplement would provide increased support for the following four areas:

Research and Development. DOD strongly supports this supplemental funding which would be used to maintain weapons R&D manpower in FY 76 at the FY 75 level of 7600. We are skeptical about this item since the drop in manpower is largely a result of pay increases at the weapons laboratories that have been considerably larger than those authorized for the Civil Service. In addition, many of the individuals involved have been transferred into non-weapons programs within ERDA.

Testing of Atomic Weapons. This funding would permit six advanced weapons tests in late FY 76 and the transition quarter with a long range objective of 30 tests per year. The six additional tests were deferred until FY 77 with ERDA's concurrence in order to carry out necessary high yield tests prior to March 31, 1976, the effective date of the TTBT.

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In our view, ERDA has not made a very good case for restoring these tests and did not appear to get much support from DOD. In addition, 30 tests per year appears excessive in view of past testing levels and the TTBT's pledge to keep nuclear weapons testing at a minimum level. DOD supports 25-30 tests per year.

Special Test Detection. This money would be used to support verification of the TTBT/PNE agreement. This activity definitely constitutes an additional burden on ERDA's resources and should be supported.

Equipment Authority. To purchase at a reduced price a Control Data Corporation (CDC) computer which ERDA has been leasing. A new generation CDC computer is behind schedule and ERDA feels that this purchase would be more sensible than leasing for another year. We defer to OMB on this one.

Talking points are at Tab A.

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Talking Points

-- We continue to support the nuclear weapons test program as a vital element of our national security and recognize the difficulties caused by restrictions on federal spending accompanied by rapid inflation.

-- I understand that payroll inflation at the weapons laboratories is responsible in large measure for the drop in manpower that would be required under the FY 76 budget. (Starbird will explain that this is due to the fact that the weapons labs are administered by the University of California which does not follow Civil Service guidelines.)

-- We recognize the added burden that TTBT/PNE verification will impose on your resources in the future in addition to the support the labs have provided in analyzing the issues during the negotiating process. This is an important activity and seems worthy of support.

-- With regard to the added tests, I am inclined to think that it might be better to carry these out early in FY 77 rather than in late FY 76, both for budgetary reasons and to avoid any impression that we are increasing the number of tests under the TTBT. As you know, we already expect criticisms on the high yields of the tests planned for the first three quarters of FY 76.

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

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26 June 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR LTG BRENT SCOWCROFT, USAF
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: ERDA Supplemental Budget

Secretary Schlesinger was briefed on 24 June 1975 on the ERDA 1976 request for a weapons budget supplemental by Dr. Seamans, LTG Starbird and MG Graves. This briefing is scheduled to be given to OMB Director Lynn and to you. Accordingly, I am forwarding Secretary Schlesinger's views with regard to the ERDA Supplemental Budget. The Secretary considers it essential that the nuclear laboratory effort in R&D and testing be protected and strongly supported the ERDA proposal to stabilize the laboratory effort in weaponization, advanced development, and supporting research at a level of 7600 people. He also stated a need for a continuing nuclear test effort of about 25-30 tests per year to support DOD initiatives. He felt that ERDA production capability must be maintained at its current high quality and productivity level but that there is some flexibility in the DOD requirements for deliveries of new weapons.

(W)

JOHN A. WICKHAM, JR.
Major General, USA
Military Assistant

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By 32 As per instructions on document
Date 3/24

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EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652. AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADE
AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS. DECLASSIFIED ON 31Dec83

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